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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part IV)

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 116 appear in the reports of the Committee contained in documents A/50/842 and Add.1-2.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 56th to 58th and 60th to 64th meetings, on 6, 7, 9, 15 to 17, 21 and 31 May 1996. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/50/SR.56-58 and 60-64).

3. In addition to the documents listed in A/50/842 and Add.1-2, the Committee had before it the following reports:

(a) Progress report on the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 (A/C.5/50/57);

(b) Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.72 on the United Nations Office of Verification in El Salvador (A/C.5/50/59);

(c) Revised estimates for the Commission of Inquiry in Rwanda (A/C.5/50/60);

(d) Proposals on possible means of absorption of the cost of new mandates within the 1996-1997 programme budget (A/C.5/50/67).

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II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Commission of Inquiry in Rwanda

4. At the 58th meeting, on 9 May, the Chairman orally proposed a draft resolution on the question of the Commission of Inquiry in Rwanda.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution as orally proposed by the Chairman, without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.61

6. At the 64th meeting, on 31 May, the representative of Austria, on behalf of the Chairman, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Progress report on the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997" (A/C.5/50/L.61).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.61 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.66

8. At the 64th meeting, on 31 May, the representative of Ireland, on behalf of the Chairman, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Proposals on possible means of absorption of the cost of new mandates within the programme budget for 1996-1997" (A/C.5/50/L.66).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.66 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.71

10. At the 64th meeting, on 31 May, the representative of Belgium, Rapporteur of the Committee, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Conference servicing of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change" (A/C.5/50/L.71).

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.71 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution IV).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

12. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Commission of Inquiry in Rwanda

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Commission of Inquiry in Rwanda 1/ and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/214 of 23 December 1995, already requested the Secretary-General to make economies in an amount of 103,991,200 United States dollars and also requested the Secretary-General to implement fully all mandated programmes and activities, and reaffirming the budgetary process adopted in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and subsequent relevant resolutions,

1. Decides to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount of up to 931,800 United States dollars (net of staff assessment) under section 3 of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 for the maintenance of the Commission of Inquiry;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly, no later than 15 May 1996, proposals on possible means of absorption in the 1996-1997 programme budget, including, inter alia, part II thereof;

3. Requests the Fifth Committee to revert to the issue of appropriations, at the latter part of its May 1996 session, in the light of the Secretary-General's proposals requested therein.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Progress report on the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the budgetary process as adopted in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and subsequent relevant resolutions,

Recalling its resolutions 50/214 and 50/215 of 23 December 1995,

Reaffirming that changes in mandated programmes and activities are the prerogative of the General Assembly,

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1/ A/C.5/50/60.

2/ See A/C.5/50/SR.58.

Also reaffirming regulation 5.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, as adopted in its resolution 37/234 of 21 December 1982,

Noting that the Secretary-General, taking into account the views of the competent intergovernmental bodies, may present proposals for changes to mandated programmes and activities for consideration and approval by such bodies,

Also noting that Member States can present proposals for changes to mandated programmes and activities in the context of the relevant negotiations,

Reaffirming its decision that savings in the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 will not affect the full implementation of mandated programmes and activities,

Having considered the interim report of the Secretary-General 3/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

1. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a report containing proposals for achieving savings as called for in resolution 50/214 in the manner indicated in paragraph 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee, 4/ no later than 1 September 1996;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, until the above-mentioned report is considered by the General Assembly, all mandated programmes and activities are implemented in full;

4. Notes that the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 was adopted in resolution 50/214 in unique circumstances and as such does not constitute a precedent;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that productivity gains will not have a negative impact on his obligations under Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations to recruit staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible, even on a temporary basis;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General not to take any measures that do not respect the prerogatives of the General Assembly;

3/ A/C.5/50/57.

4/ A/50/7/Add.16.

7. Decides to revert to this question at its fifty-first session upon receipt of the report of the Secretary-General.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Proposals on possible means of absorption of the cost of new mandates within the programme budget for 1996-1997

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the budgetary process as adopted in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and subsequent relevant resolutions,

Recalling its resolutions 50/214 and 50/215 of 23 December 1995,

Reaffirming that changes in mandated programmes and activities are the prerogative of the General Assembly,

Recalling its authorizations for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in 1996 in respect of newly mandated activities in Haiti, Guatemala, El Salvador and Rwanda, 5/

Recalling also its requests that the Secretary-General provide a report, no later than 15 May 1996, on possible means of absorption of the related costs within the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, 5/

Recognizing that the expenditures relating to the newly mandated activities in Haiti, Guatemala, El Salvador and Rwanda are extraordinary in nature and are governed by the procedures specified in paragraph 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213,

Noting that the General Assembly has approved commitment authority amounting to 24.7 million United States dollars for activities in Haiti, Guatemala, El Salvador and Rwanda in 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on possible means of absorption, 6/

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Notes that the Secretary-General stated in his report that he could not absorb any additional amount beyond the reductions of 154 million dollars required to maintain expenditures within the approved appropriations and that he anticipated that new approved and prospective mandates might require an additional 120 million dollars during the course of the biennium;

5/ See, inter alia, A/50/913 and A/50/914.

6/ A/C.5/50/67.

3. Reiterates that the Secretary-General's authority to implement any proposal to change mandated programmes and activities is subject to the prior approval of the General Assembly;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, subject to fully implementing all mandated programmes and activities as required by General Assembly resolution 50/214, to submit a further report to the Assembly no later than 1 September 1996 containing proposals on possible means of absorption in the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, including, inter alia, in part II thereof and in the area of staff costs where savings might arise from the implementation of the early separation programme during 1996-1997;

5. Decides to revert to the issue of appropriations in the context of the first performance report;

6. Authorizes the Secretary-General, in responding to the requirements of resolution 50/86 B of 3 April 1996 concerning Haiti, to enter into further commitments of 1,767,300 dollars gross (1,606,200 dollars net of staff assessment) for the period from 1 June 1996 to 31 August 1996;

7. Also authorizes the Secretary-General, should the General Assembly decide to extend the mandate of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti beyond 31 August 1996, to enter into commitments through December 1996 in an amount not exceeding a monthly level of 627,900 dollars gross (567,700 dollars net of staff assessment).

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Conference servicing of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the conference servicing of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 7/ and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon, 8/

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/115 of 20 December 1995, decided to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1996-1997 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium, entailing twelve weeks of conference-servicing facilities,

Recalling also that the Fifth Committee informed the General Assembly in this connection that the actual amount required under section 26E, Conference

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7/ A/C.5/50/58.

8/ A/50/7/Add.15.

services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, including the need for additional appropriation, would be considered by the General Assembly at its resumed session in 1996, 9/

Recalling further that the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/214 of 23 December 1995, already requested the Secretary-General to make economies in an amount of 103,991,200 United States dollars and also requested the Secretary-General to implement fully all mandated programmes and activities,

Reaffirming the budgetary process adopted in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, and subsequent relevant resolutions,

1. Decides to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to an amount of 5,517,000 United States dollars from section 26 of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 for the provision of conference servicing to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its subsidiary bodies;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, subject to fully implementing all mandated programmes and activities as required by resolution 50/214, to submit a report no later than 1 September 1996 containing proposals on possible means of absorption in the programme budget for 1996-1997;

3. Decides to revert to the issue of appropriations in the context of the first performance report.

9/ A/50/823, para. 3.